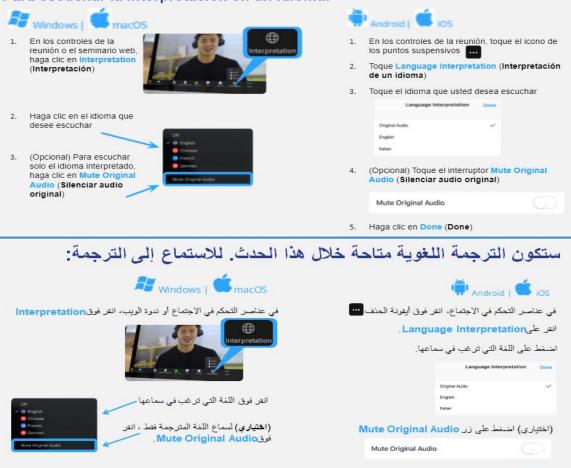


# Welcome and thank you for joining!

- This meeting will be recorded and posted on the ECLC Transition Webpage
- Please use the chat to ask questions for the presenters
- Spanish and Arabic language interpretation is available. Follow the instructions to join the appropriate language channel

We will begin shortly!

Durante este evento, se dispondrá de interpretación de idiomas. Para escuchar la interpretación en un idioma:



Done lia



# Early Childhood Transition Plan Monthly Town Hall September 2021

### Introductions

Early Childhood Leadership Commission Co-Chairs:

- Pamela Harris President & CEO, Mile High Early Learning
- Tom Massey Deputy Executive Director, Health Care Policy & Financing
- Susan Steele President & CEO, Buell Foundation

### Voices from the Field

### Erika Echeverria

### Mother, SCAN Outreach Volunteer Leader for Denver, and Early Head Start Home Visitor with Catholic Charities

# Overview

### Overview

Colorado is creating a new state department to oversee early childhood programs, including the development and implementation of a voter-approved universal preschool program.

As the state moves forward in designing both the department and the program, it will seek significant engagement from families, providers, school districts, advocates, community leaders, and other stakeholders. This input will be key to ensuring success for young children and families across the state.

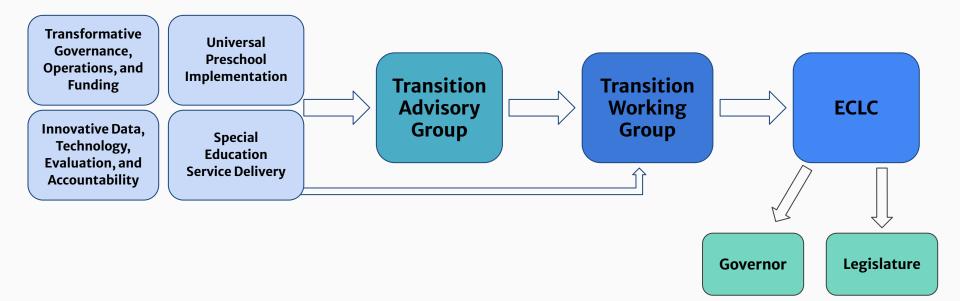
The monthly Town Hall is designed to provide stakeholders with the most up-to-date information and opportunities to get involved.

# Early Childhood Leadership Commission

The ECLC is tasked with submitting a report to the Governor and the Legislature outlining detailed plans to transition to the new department and to implement the voluntary universal preschool program. The transition plan is due November 2021, and the recommendations for universal voluntary preschool are due January 2022.

Stakeholders will be key to informing the path forward, and the ECLC has developed a transition planning process in accordance with <u>HB21-1304</u> that prioritizes public engagement and input.

## **Planning Process**



# **Guiding Principles**

Children, families, and communities are at the center of our work.



### Mission, Vision, and Values

### Vision

All Colorado children, families, and early childhood professionals are valued, healthy and thriving.

### Mission

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood champions a comprehensive, community-informed, effective, high quality and equitable early childhood system that supports the care, education and well-being of all Colorado's young children, their families and early childhood professionals in all settings.

### Mission, Vision, and Values

### Values

- We value equity across the early childhood system and are committed to utilizing an equity-focused lens to drive priorities and decision making.
- We believe that formal and informal care environments can provide high quality, developmentally appropriate care and learning.
- We respect and appreciate the diversity and strengths of all of our communities in Colorado.
- We believe that accessibility to early childhood services considers affordability, cultural responsiveness, and parent choice.
- We value an innovative and expansive approach to our early childhood system.
- We value a whole family approach.





### **Transition Website**

The ECLC has a dedicated <u>page</u> on its website with information about the transition process.

The page includes up-to-date news and information, with meeting agendas, background materials, meeting recordings, a <u>calendar of</u> <u>events</u>, and a list of <u>Frequently Asked</u> <u>Questions</u>.

#### SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER! MONTHLY TOWN SUBGROUPS FEEDBACK FORM HALLS The Transition Advisory The ECLC values your Starting on August 10, the Group Subaroups will suggestions. ECLC will hold monthly meet regularly to advise recommendations. town halls to provide and inform the questions and innovative updates on the transition Department of Early ideas to inform the planning progress, Childhood transition plan Department of Early highlight the work ahead, and universal preschool Childhood transition plan and share opportunities to and universal preschool program aet involved.

#### earlychildhoodcolorado.org/transition

## Monthly Newsletter

The ECLC has a monthly newsletter that provides stakeholders with updated information about the transition process.

You can subscribe to the newsletter through the ECLC website.

The September newsletter will be issued tomorrow.



# **TAG Meetings Update**

The Transition Advisory Group ( $\underline{TAG}$ ) met on Aug. 25. Among key actions during the meeting, members

- Offered feedback on a draft proposal for program movement to the new department.
- Considered the timeline of program movement to the new department.
- Previewed a future discussion regarding local structures, partnerships, and collaboration with the new department.

### **Current Early Childhood Structure**

CDE			CDHS			
P-3 Office	Colorado Preschool Program (& additional school-system administered preschool funding sources, e.g. ECARE)		Division of Early Learning Access and Quality	<ul> <li>Child Care Attendance Tracking System</li> <li>Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP)*</li> <li>Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)</li> <li>Early Childhood Councils &amp; CCR&amp;Rs</li> <li>Early Childhood Workforce &amp; Professional Development (PDIS)</li> </ul>		
	Preschool Special Education ‡	OEC		<ul> <li>Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund</li> <li>Colorado Community Response</li> <li>Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Program</li> <li>Early Childhood Mental Health</li> </ul>		
	Early Childhood Assessment and Results Matter		Division of Community and Family Support	<ul> <li>Early Intervention</li> <li>Family Resource Centers</li> <li>Fatherhood Program*</li> <li>Head Start</li> <li>Home Visiting Programs (e.g., NFP, SafeCare, PAT, Healthy Steps, Child First,</li> </ul>		
	EC Workforce Development Team			<ul> <li>HIPPY)</li> <li>Incredible Years</li> <li>Promoting Safe and Stable Families</li> </ul>		
CDPHE			Division of Early Learning, Licensing and Administration	<ul> <li>Background Investigation Unit</li> <li>Child Care Licensing*</li> </ul>		
CACFP*				<ul> <li>Communications</li> <li>Early Childhood Leadership Commission</li> </ul>		
Maternal and Child Health (Block Grant) * ‡			Operations	<ul> <li>Federal Opportunities (e.g., Preschool Development Grant)</li> <li>Finance and Contracts</li> <li>Strategy / Policy</li> </ul>		
WIC		OES		TANF*‡		
		OCYF		Child Welfare*		

\*these programs provide services to children beyond 5 years old; see next slide for more information

### Program Movement - Proposal

Proposal	Department of Early Childhood (DEC)	
Programs included	<ul> <li><u>CPP</u></li> <li><u>All of OEC</u></li> <li><u>Early Childhood Workforce Development</u>*</li> </ul>	

- For each of the programs above, their purpose is aligned with the vision for the department, the guiding principles, values, and its mission to create a comprehensive, community-informed, effective, high quality and equitable early childhood system.
- To create a unified structure and seamless family, workforce and provider experience, existing rules or regulations of these programs may need to be amended to ensure alignment across the landscape.
- As programs shift to the new department, the intent would be for DEC to also acquire the authority and regulatory power of the funding sources tied to these programs.

\*Certifications overlap between EC and K-12 and will need to be reexamined to ensure successful transition, if this direction is pursued.

The new Department of Early Childhood will launch in July 2022. Universal, voluntary statewide preschool will launch in **July 2023**.

- 1. A major priority for the Department of Early Childhood (DEC) is the successful launch of universal preschool. In addition, DEC should ensure that children, families, and providers don't experience a disruption in other services and programs within the early childhood system.
- 2. Not all families will access universal preschool. Ensuring that a complementary continuum of family supports are delivered side by side with the universal preschool program can help the new department to meet each family's needs.
- 3. Once the new department is fully established, Colorado should continually review the entire early childhood landscape to understand where additional alignment support, program movement, or landscape change is needed to bring coherence to the child, family, and provider experiences.

	GOVERNANCE	DATA & TECH	UPK	SPECIAL ED
Meeting 3	•Local governance infrastructure	•Supports for families & providers	•Local infrastructure to support UPK	•Part B 619 (Preschool Special Education)
Meeting 4	<ul><li>Blending and</li><li>braiding funds</li><li>Funding flow</li></ul>	•Data alignment from early childhood through K12	<ul> <li>Balancing universal</li> <li>&amp; targeted</li> <li>programming</li> <li>Going beyond 10</li> <li>hours</li> </ul>	•Part C (Early Intervention)
Meeting 5	•Cross-system service enrollment	•Supports for enrollment	•Mixed delivery	•Local & state administration of EC Special Ed

	GOVERNANCE	DATA & TECH	UPK	SPECIAL ED
Meeting 6	<ul> <li>Inter-/intra-agency coordination</li> <li>Incorporating voices from the field</li> </ul>	•Current & ideal state agency data systems	•Ensuring adequate workforce and facilities	<ul> <li>National examples</li> <li>Agency roles &amp; responsibilities</li> </ul>
Meeting 7	•Parking lot issues	•Unique Child Identifier	•Human centered design	<ul> <li>Interagency accountability</li> <li>Aligning oversight &amp; regulations</li> </ul>
Meeting 8	<ul> <li>Parking lot issues</li> </ul>	•Leveraging existing data efforts	•Coordinated enrollment	•Mixed delivery and accountability of CBOs

### Listening Sessions - Program Providers

In recent listening sessions, program providers elevated the following

topics for consideration during the planning process:

- Collaboration across the early childhood system is essential
- Family choice and access
- Streamlining rules and regulations
- Potential unintended impacts to the system
- Recruiting, retaining, and supporting our workforce

### **Listening Sessions - Families**

In recent listening sessions, parents and family members elevated the following topics for consideration during the planning process:

- More parent choice and access to different types of care
- More accommodations for the transportation of children to and from care
- Long waitlists prevent children from accessing the desired type of care
- Services ought to be offered in multiple languages
- Parents who work full time struggle to supplement care for their children who only have part time child care

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

# **TAG Meeting**

The next TAG meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept.15, 2021, from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. MST.

A link to join the meeting and the agenda will be made available in advance on the ECLC Transition Planning <u>webpage</u>.

# Subgroup Meetings

Subgroups will meet at the following dates and times.

- <u>Innovative Data, Technology, Evaluation & Accountability</u>: Sept.29 from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. MST
- Special Education Service Delivery: Sept.29 from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. MST
- <u>Universal Preschool Implementation</u>: Sept.9 and Sept.30 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
   MST
- Transformative Governance, Operations & Funding: Sept.9 and Sept.30 from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. MST

To register to attend a specific subgroup meeting, click the links above.

## Listening Sessions

The ECLC is hosting a series of listening sessions to hear directly from families, workers, and provides their perspectives and experiences with various aspects of the early childhood system.

- The Workforce Listening Sessions will be held Tuesday, Sept.21, 2021, from 12 p.m.-1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. MST.
- Notes from the Provider and Family Listening Sessions are available <u>here</u>.

### Statewide Listening Tour

From October 11-15, the ECLC, in partnership with the Governor's Office and other state agencies, will host a statewide listening tour. At stops along the tour, we will share a draft of the transition plan with communities and collect feedback to apply to the final version. All listening tour stops will be open to the public.

### More information available soon!



### Feedback Form

A brief feedback form is now available on the website and will remain throughout the process. Stakeholder input will be made public, as directed by the legislation, and shared with the TAG and its subgroups.

Access the feedback form here.

View feedback received, to date, here.

# Stay Informed

Subscribe to the monthly newsletter

Visit the ECLC website Read Frequently Asked Questions

For additional information, contact ECLC Director Kristina Heyl at kristina.heyl@state.co.us







# For information on all of the opportunities to engage in this work, please visit

www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/transition